

Natural Born Sinners

Romans 3:9-20

This entire section summarizes the teaching of the first two chapters of Romans. It is important to note that Paul addresses a person in his natural state, one who has not yet been regenerated by the Holy Spirit or come to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

I. The Proposition Paul Renders . . . “*all (are) under sin*” (v.9).

The phrase “*under sin*” does not refer to the dominion of sin, but the condemnation of sin (i.e. guilty before God). The opposite of being “*under sin*” is to be “*under grace*.” It matters not your background or religious heritage. You’re under condemnation.

II. The Proof Paul Offers . . . “*There is none righteous, no, not one*” (v.10).

This is a direct quote from Psalm 14. There is no one righteous in God’s sight. The Puritans often translated “*righteous*” with the word “*oughtness*.” There is no husband, father, worker, mother, wife, child who, by nature, is “*as one ought to be*.”

(A). Look at their worship . . . “*there is none that understands, that seeks God*” (v.11).

“*All men are naturally ignorant of God, and by neglecting the one thing they need, show no understanding, they act more irrationally than beasts*” Robert Haldane.

The religious seek happiness, peace, riches, contentment, and purpose: but not God.

(B). Look at their works . . . “*there is none that doeth good, no not one*.” (v.12).

Good is the essence of God. Held to the standard of God, nobody measures up. Even what we consider good is “*filthy rags*” in God’s eyes. We have wandered and are lost.

(C). Look at their words . . . “*Their throat is an open sepulcher*” (vs. 13-14).

This is very graphic language to show that the condition of the heart is measured by the conversation of the lips. A dead person will find his mouth reflects his deadness.

(1). Words are used to deceive . . . through flattery, gossip, and slander.

(2). Words are used to destroy . . . “*the poison of asps,*” “*cursings,*” and “*bitterness*” characterizes the words of the “*dead person*.” The tongue is set on fire of hell.

(D). Look at their ways . . . “*destruction and misery are in their ways*” (vs. 15-17).

Selfishness reigns! If I’m told I can’t have something, I’ll destroy anything in my way.

(E). Look at their wisdom . . . “*there is no fear of God before their eyes*” (v.18).

“*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*” (Prov. 1:7) thus, they have none.

III. The Problem Paul Considers . . . “*by the deeds of law shall no flesh be justified*” (v.20).

The article “*the*” is not found in v.19 or v.20. Law to the Jew was the Old Covenant laws given by God. Law to the Gentile was conscience and society. No matter the law, by obedience to it or recommitment to it, shall no man be made right with Him.

IV. The Promise Paul Delivers . . . “*now a righteousness from God is revealed*” (v. 21).

This is the beginning of our text for next week, but we can’t quit till we marvel at it! “*A righteousness without law is manifested,*” a righteousness that is independent of our obedience or our activity. This righteousness is given to those who believe that their righteousness must come from Jesus Christ. It is Christ who has borne the curse of the law for our sins and Christ who gives us His righteousness.

This is the good news that transforms lives. It is the gospel of grace that sets sinners free!